



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —

Chairman of the Board

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

**CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON
PRESENTATION FROM AIRTRAN AIRWAYS EXECUTIVES**

Chairman pushes for more jobs, non-stop flights

Milwaukee, WI – At the request of AirTran Airways, Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway met with Joseph Leonard, the company's Chairman and CEO, Thursday. Milwaukee County owns and operates General Mitchell International Airport. Therefore, it made sense for AirTran to solicit meetings with the elected leaders of Milwaukee County.

Chairman Holloway shared his vision with the AirTran executives. His goals include preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic development. Holloway is working to protect the interests of Milwaukee County, including the 22 gates controlled by Midwest Airlines. "It's important to have an open dialogue with AirTran now, in the event that market forces cause this deal to go through later," Holloway said. "We want to make sure we're getting the best deal for Milwaukee County's taxpayers, and ensure those gates are used to their fullest potential."

"In the end, I want the most jobs in Milwaukee County and the most non-stop flights from Mitchell over the long-term. The presentation I received from AirTran Airways has potential, but I am taking a neutral stance on the proposed merger," Holloway said.

Midwest Airlines is the largest air carrier at Mitchell International. The County provided financial support to help with Midwest's restructuring in 2003, as the airline recovered from an economic downturn after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

AirTran's executives told Chairman Holloway they fully support Milwaukee County's operation of the airport, commenting that Mitchell is among the best-run airports in the United States. Chairman Holloway added, "They wouldn't be making this bid if our airport wasn't an attractive base to build their operation."

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